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## LORADO TAFT.

Saturday evening, March 9, about one hundred and fifty people representing the various artistic and civic activities of Chicago assembled in Blackstone Hall in the Art Institute at a kind of informal congratulatory supper in honor of Mr. Lorado Taft, the sculptor. The immediate occasion was the announcement that Mr. Taft had received the commission to execute the heroic bronze statue of Columbus to be placed before the new Union Station at Washington, D. C. This meeting took the form of an ovation to Mr. Taft for his long continued and enthusiastic services to western art, and to the artistic development of Chicago. As a tribute to a distinguished fellow-worker, the spontaneous feeling and grateful appreciation shown by the company were really remarkable. Mr. Wallace Heckman presided, and among the speakers were, Henry G. Foreman, W. M. R. French, Charles J. Mulligan and J. S. Dickerson.

A feature which added greatly to the good humor of the occasion was a cheerfully executed reproduction of one of Mr. Taft's clay lectures, enacted by Mr. Ralph Holmes and Mr. Walter Clute.

The Annual Chicago Exhibition was as usual very strong in the department of sculpture, and included several works by Mr. Taft, among them a colossal statue of Washington for Seattle, Wash., an Indian Fountain for Paducah, Ky., busts of Logan and Loomis, some park groups, etc., most of which are shown in the accompanying cut.

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Mr. Charles D. Norton, who has been appointed Assistant Secretary of the United States Treasury, was at one time a student in the evening sculpture class at the Art Institute, under the tuition of Mr. Mulligan.

## ART SCHOOL MATTERS.

The Tuesday Art and Travel Class has donated five hundred dollars to be used as a Foreign Travelling Scholarship, and to be given to the young woman who is a native of, and now resident in Chicago, making the best record in the Art School during the year; the conditions are similar to those governing the John Quincy Adams Scholarship.

A momentary excitement in educational circles was occasioned by the action of Mr. Cooley, Superintendent of the Public Schools, upon January 13, in striking the Art Institute from the list of "accredited institutions," that is, of schools in which public school teachers are permitted to take study courses, and obtain promotional credits. Although this sudden and unexpected measure was unwelcome to the Art Institute, the Trustees deemed it detrimental to the public welfare that there should be a public quarrel between two great educational agencies such as the Board of Education and the Art Institute. They therefore made no public explanations, but in private conference reached a satisfactory understanding with the Board of Education.

It ought perhaps to be explained that the position of accredited institution was voluntarily conferred upon the Art Institute, and that the Art Institute never had power to confer credits, but only certified that the teacher-students had accomplished certain courses within certain times, and the officials of the Board of Education issued the credits. We believe none of the numerous certificates issued by the Art Institute have been disallowed.

The Normal Classes for teachers of public schools are continued, and teachers are most welcome in these and the other classes of the Art Institute.